

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated October 8, 2003, the Examiner rejected Claims 4-6, 11, 12, 14-18, 20-23, 29 and 31 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 4,202,251 ("Berkowitz '451") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,642,841 ("Beaty"). Claims 7, 8 and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Berkowitz '451 in view of Beaty and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 2,054,764 ("Berkowitz '764"). The Examiner also rejected Claims 13, 19, 25-27 and 30 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Berkowitz '451 in view of Beaty and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,628,398 ("Jackson").

The Examiner indicated that Claims 1-3 are allowed, and that Claims 9, 10 and 28 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all the limitations of their respective base claims and any intervening claims. Claims 1, 4 and 20, as amended, are the only independent claims. As suggested by the Examiner, Applicants amended Independent Claim 4 to incorporate the allowable subject matter of Claim 9 and amended independent Claim 20 to incorporate the allowable subject matter of Claim 28. Hence, all of the Applicants' independent claims are now presented in a manner that the Examiner has indicated would be allowable. Based on the following amendments and remarks, the Applicants believe that the instant Reissue Application is in condition for allowance.

Allowed Claims

Applicants have amended patent Claims 2 and 3 to effect an editorial revision so that the claims are in conformity with patent Claim 1. In particular, Applicants removed the adjective "Christmas" from the noun "ornaments" to conform with a previous amendment made to Claim 1.

Claim Rejections

Applicants have amended Independent base Claim 4 to incorporate the allowable subject matter of Claim 9, which recites a hanger having "a support bar" and a retainer having "a plurality of ridges spaced therealong." Since the Examiner indicated that Claim 9 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, amended Claim 4 is believed to be allowable. Claim 9, which repeats the subject matter now

recited in amended Claim 4, has been cancelled.

Claim 10, as originally filed, was dependent on Claim 9. Since Claim 9 has been cancelled, Claim 10 has been amended to recite amended Claim 4 as the base claim. The substance of Claim 10 has not changed.

Claims 5-8 and 10-19 are dependent on amended Claim 4 and incorporate all of the features of amended Claim 4. Therefore, Claims 5-8 and 10-19 are allowable over the cited references for at least the same reason that amended Claim 4 is allowable.

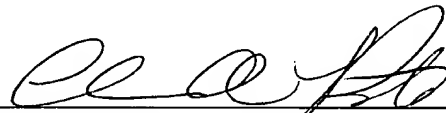
Applicants have amended Claim 20 to incorporate the allowable subject matter of Claim 28, which recites “wherein the retainers comprise a series of ridges extending outwardly from the support bar and forming a plurality of shortened spans on the support bar between the ridges, said spans being adapted to support the ornaments, and said ridges being adapted to limit sliding displacement of the ornaments on the spans.” Since the Examiner indicated that Claim 28 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, amended Claim 20 is believed to be allowable. Claim 28, which repeats the subject matter recited in amended Claim 20, has been cancelled.

Claims 21-27 and 29-31 are dependent on amended Claim 20 and incorporate all of the features of amended Claim 20. Therefore, Claims 21-27 and 29-31 are allowable over the cited references for at least the same reason that amended Claim 20 is allowable.

Conclusion

Claims 1-3 were previously allowed by the Examiner. Claims 2 and 3 were amended to bring them into conformity with Claim 1. Claims 4-8, 10-27 and 29-31 include or incorporate subject matter that the Examiner previously determined to be allowable subject matter. Therefore, Applicants believe that Claims 1-8, 10-27 and 29-31 are in allowable form, and the Examiner should respectfully pass this case to reissue.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. A. Rothe', is written over a horizontal line.

Christopher A. Rothe
PTO Reg. No. 54,650

DANN DORFMAN HERRELL & SKILLMAN
A Professional Corporation
1601 Market Street, Suite 2400
Philadelphia, PA 19103-2307

Telephone: (215) 563-4100
Facsimile: (215) 563-4044

EXHIBIT A

COMPLETE LIST OF CLAIMS SHOWING CHANGES SINCE LAST AMENDMENT

1. (Previously presented) A container for storing ornaments, said container comprising:

a box having a top, sides, back, bottom and an open front,

a front portion hinged to said bottom,

said front portion being moveable from a first position in which said front portion closes said open front of said box to a second position in which said front portion uncovers said open front of said box,

means for holding said front portion in said first position,

said top of said box having an inside surface and an outside surface,

support means for holding a hanger mounted on said inside surface of said top of said box, and

a hanger means for holding ornaments detachably secured to said support means, said hanger means having means for engaging said support means for securing said hanger means on said support means,

said hanger means having a top portion and a bottom portion,

said bottom portion having a plurality of ridges spaced therealong.
2. (Amended) The container for storing [Christmas] ornaments as claimed in claim 1, wherein said support means is at least one hook.
3. (Amended) The container for storing [Christmas] ornaments as claimed in claim 1, wherein said bottom portion also has a plurality of upstanding

projections extending therefrom for attaching looped ornament hangers.

4. (Twice amended) An ornament holder, comprising:
a container having an opening and inside walls; [:]
a closure releasably openable relative to the container, the closure adapted to enclose the opening; [:]
a hanger support disposed inside the container; and
a hanger removably mountable relative to the hanger support to provide an
open region between the hanger and at least one of the inside walls of
the container,
the hanger being configured to be mountable onto and removable from the
hanger support, the hanger adapted to hold an ornament, the hanger
having at least one retainer disposed along the hanger intermediate
ends of the hanger for limiting sliding displacement of the ornament
along the hanger,
wherein the hanger comprises a support bar and the at least one retainer
includes a plurality of ridges spaced therealong.
5. (Previously presented) The ornament holder of claim 4, wherein the
closure is hingeably mounted to the container.
6. (Previously presented) The ornament holder of claim 4, wherein the closure is
pivotally connected to the container.
7. (Previously presented) The ornament holder of claim 4, comprising a fastener

to fasten the closure to the container.

8. (Previously presented) The ornament holder of claim 7, wherein the fastener is mounted externally to the container.
9. (Cancelled).
10. (Twice amended) The ornament holder of claim 4 [9], wherein the ridges are adapted to retain an ornament to prevent the ornament from sliding along the bar.
11. (Previously presented) The ornament holder of claim 4, wherein the hanger comprises a plurality of fingers spaced therealong.
12. (Previously presented) The ornament holder of claim 11, wherein the fingers are adapted to retain an ornament so as to enable the ornament to hang from the fingers.
13. (Previously presented) The ornament holder of claim 4, wherein the hanger support comprises a hook.
14. (Previously presented) The ornament holder of claim 4 wherein the hanger is mountable on the hanger support to provide the open region between the hanger and the inside wall of the container opposite the opening.

15. (Previously presented) The ornament holder of claim 4 wherein the container includes a front and a rear and wherein the opening is provided on the front generally opposite the rear of the container to define a depth therebetween.
16. (Previously presented) The ornament holder of claim 15 wherein the hanger comprises a rod for holding an ornament, the rod having a thickness less than the depth of the container.
17. (Previously presented) The ornament holder of claim 16 where the hanger is mountable on the hanger support to provide the open region between the hanger and the rear of the container.
18. (Previously presented) The ornament holder of claim 4, wherein the closure is mounted relative to the container and wherein the closure is moveable from a first position in which the closure covers the opening of the container to a second position which provides access inside of the container.
19. (Previously presented) The ornament holder of claim 4 wherein the hanger is configured to be slidably mountable onto the hanger support.
20. (Amended) An ornament holder, comprising:
 - A. a container having an opening and inside walls;
 - B. a closure adapted for covering the opening;
 - C. a support bar removably mountable inside the container for enabling ornaments to be removably hung on the support bar;

and

- D. a plurality of retainers spaced along the support bar, said retainers extending outwardly from the support bar to limit sliding displacement of ornaments along the support bar and to maintain a distribution of the ornaments along the length of the support bar,

wherein the retainers comprise a series of ridges extending outwardly from the support bar and forming a plurality of shortened spans on the support bar between the ridges, said spans being adapted to support the ornaments, and said ridges being adapted to limit sliding displacement of the ornaments on the spans.

21. (Previously presented) The ornament holder of claim 20, wherein the closure is hingeably mounted to the container.
22. (Previously presented) The ornament holder of claim 20, wherein the closure is pivotally connected to the container.
23. (Previously presented) The ornament holder of claim 22, wherein the closure is movable between a first position, in which the closure covers the opening of the container, and a second position, in which the opening is exposed to provide access inside of the container.
24. (Previously presented) The ornament holder of claim 20, comprising a releasable fastener to fasten the closure to the container.

- 25. (Previously presented) The ornament holder of claim 20, comprising a hanger support mounted on at least one of the inside walls of the container, said
• hanger support comprising two or more support mounts for removably
• supporting the support bar inside the container.
- 26. (Previously presented) The ornament holder of claim 25, wherein the support mounts comprise a pair of hooks connected to at least one of the inside walls in the container.
- 27. (Previously presented) The ornament holder of claim 25, wherein the support mounts are centrally located on one of the inside walls to support the support bar in a position spaced away from the other inside walls and the opening.
- 28. (Cancelled).
- 29. (Previously presented) The ornament holder of claim 20, wherein the retainers comprise a series of fingers extending outwardly and generally perpendicularly from the support bar.
- 30. (Previously presented) The ornament holder of claim 20 comprising a handle on the exterior of the container.
- 31. (Previously presented) The ornament holder of claim 20, comprising a hanger support disposed on the inside walls of the container and wherein the support bar is configured to be slidably mountable on the hanger support.